

intercepting the data on the subscriber line; and  
sending the data directly to the router while bypassing the switch.

33. A method as set forth in claim 32 where the step of intercepting the data includes the step of intercepting the data ahead of a switch.

34. A method as set forth in claim 32 where the step of intercepting the data includes the step of intercepting the data ahead of a switching network.

35. A method as set forth in claim 32 where the step of intercepting the data includes the step of intercepting the data ahead of a switch interface module.

36. A method as set forth in claim 32 where the step of intercepting the data includes the step of intercepting the data ahead of a remote line termination unit in communication with the subscriber line module.

37. A method as set forth in claim 32 further comprising the steps of:  
assigning a logical identifier to the data; and  
associating the data with the subscriber line.

38. An apparatus for sending data, received on a subscriber line connected to a subscriber line module communicating with a central office, directly to a router, comprising:

means for identifying the presence of a data call at the subscriber line module;  
means for intercepting the data on the subscriber line; and  
means for sending the data directly to the router while bypassing the switch.

39. An apparatus as set forth in claim 38 further comprising:  
means for assigning a logical identifier to the data; and  
means for associating the data with the subscriber line.--.